

April 8, 2013

My husband Andy and I took a gamble and used our savings to purchase a food truck. We quit our Government contracting jobs to pursue an opportunity to run our own business. As second generation immigrants, we were the first on our families to start our own business. The experience has been met with a lot of obstacles as well as tremendous joy.

We now own two trucks which operate in Va and DC. Just a few months after opening, we ran into problems with regulations in Arlington, Va. Possible regulation changes to DC were always talked about when we entered the market. Our truck provides us the opportunity to serve Vietnamese cuisine in areas we would never have been able to afford to rent for a restaurant. Because of this, we're able to sell our food for a much less expensive price to the consumer.

Our customers have told us how much they appreciate the fact that they are now able to get so many choices for lunch in areas that have been lacking variety for many years. Trucks provide a tremendous value to the street life in the city during lunchtime. Because of our work during lunch, we have been given opportunities to work on catering events and branch off to do other things. The truck has been a great incubator for our business.

At this point in time we're thinking about branching out into a restaurant. However, we're hesitant to make such a commitment when our currently livelihood is being jeopardized in DC. In order for us to pursue other things, we need to be able to depend on the revenue stream from our trucks. It takes money to make money and sadly banks are not willing to lend to small businesses any longer. We're asking that you please allow the market to regulate itself. Do not restrict our business and limit competition for restaurants. We all need to start somewhere and if you help and invest in the little businesses, they are the ones that will grow and the local economy will benefit.

We're just asking for a chance to grow our business. Thank you for your time.

Uyen & Andy Nguyen
Lemongrass Truck

April 8, 2013

I support Food Trucks and I don't support politicians who limit our eating options for no good reason. Thanks

Trey Pollard

1506 Pennsylvania Ave SE
Washington, DC 20003

April 8, 2013

I am strongly opposed to the proposed food truck regulations that will hamper their operations in the city. As a District resident (Ward 4) I will make it my business to support any candidate that opposes these regulations. Thank you.

Peter R. Cizmadia

April 8, 2013

I like the current set-up of food trucks, of being able to go downtown and at various spots, seeing food trucks. They have no regularity or rhyme or reason. It is not like going to a store that is located in the same spot. That is the beauty of the trucks, their unpredictability. You never know what you are going to find or where it will be. Yes, I have favorites but I am always discovering new ones. And the smells, wafting along the city streets, so delectable, so satisfying, where else can you have such a sensuous smell experience?

Do not attempt to make the trucks conformist, or like a truck chain. It definitely gives vendors a time to shine, those that are new and innovative do well, those that are ho-hum won't.

Constance Street

April 8, 2013

The regulations being proposed for Food Trucks is un-capitalistic and unnecessary for the district. I am an employee who works in Southwest DC, where there is an utter lack of food choices. In SW DC, there is so little car and pedestrian traffic, I am not sure why having the food trucks around is an issue whatsoever. The food trucks have become one of the few enjoyable parts of the workday and an exciting lunchtime experience. This experience has brought a number of our colleagues together to try new and exciting foods.

In addition, I am a liberal democrat and in many cases I am in favor of government regulations. However, I do not understand how the food trucks are being detrimental to society and why they need to be regulated. They are all in competition with each other and with the local (and sparse) restaurants, and this is capitalism at its best. If these regulations go in place and severely restrict food trucks, including the once-a-month lottery that can crush cash-flow for that truck for a whole month, true entrepreneurship cannot thrive. These businesses cannot base their business plan on the hope that they win a lottery for a month in a certain location, and that they could have 0 money coming in if they don't win, and therefore many will go out of business.

This whole regulation is absurd, and would be incredibly upsetting to those of us who enjoy the exciting food truck options, and who enjoy the food trucks as a part of our city.

Thanks for your understanding.

Hallie Futterman

April 8, 2013

Have you ever had the Gumbo from Willie's Po' Boy?

How about an empanada from Something Stuffed?

Anything at all from either Lemongrass Truck or Seoul Food?

I could go on but I can only assume the answer is no as the proposed food truck regulations could potentially drive these vibrant and necessary small businesses away.

Food trucks are good for the city. They bring people out of their offices and onto the streets. They create jobs. They offer alternatives to the snooze fest of brick and mortar sub shops.

They are not a threat to anyone or any business.

Please reconsider the proposed regulations. DC should be encouraging the creation of small businesses – not driving them away. Pun absolutely intended.

Thank you for your time.

Lisa Kahn

Food Truck Fan and small business supporter

April 8, 2013

My name is Levani Kechkhuashvili and I am sous chef with the Chef Driven DC food truck. I've been working in the food service industry for about 10 years, 3 of which have been in the back of house/kitchen, after graduating the local culinary school L'Academie de Cuisine. We have had Chef Driven DC on the road for about one year now, since opening in April of last year. The business is picking up more and more every day and, so far, thriving. For this, we are grateful every day. We are a local minded operation and try to do our business accordingly, collaborating with as many local businesses as possible. I truly believe, that if the newly proposed regulations were put into place, Chef Driven DC would suffer much, along with all other food trucks which operate in the District. For one thing, the proposal that food trucks must operate with at least 10 ft of unobstructed sidewalk width would be absolutely detrimental to the whole industry in the city. Many of the lucrative sites have sidewalk with a total width of 10 ft. This would mean any food truck operating there would have to have their customers wait in a grass area 10 ft away from the food truck, that is, if there is a grass area at that particular site. The other area I have concern for is, how many MRV locations will there be, and will there be as many MRV permits issued. In a recent DDOT meeting, this was attempted to be discussed by most of the food truck operators present. We were not given clear answers on this issue either, including many others. Most have proposed to have a MRV permit which allows 4 hour parking anywhere in the city, just as we've been doing. Instead, it would extend the current parking time limit to 4 hours instead of 2, as to avoid being ticketed. This seems like the most viable option, and many believe it will work much better than the one currently being proposed.

Respectfully,

Levani Kechkhuashvili
Chef Driven DC
3900 16th St NW Apt# 636
Washington DC 20011

April 8, 2013

For 15 years I've been buying lunch in Golden Triangle area, but if the new regs take effect for the food trucks, I have no problem packing my lunch for work from now on. In other words, the brick-and-mortar restaurants won't get my business just because there are less food trucks.

Thanks,

Arthur Hondros

April 8, 2013

We've finally gotten really first class food trucks. Why do you want to mess with them? They are so much better than the scary hot dogs, stale pretzels and questionable egg rolls which have been the mainstay of DC food trucks. I support the food trucks and agree with the following suggestions:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options
- DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers
- DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety

Beth Wilson

April 8, 2013

I've got your email address from an article by Food Truck Fiesta and I just wanted to write you a quick email to ask you to support food trucks in DC. The new rules will not help consumers like me. I enjoy food trucks and I like having many options. I work near the state department and I eat from food trucks almost everyday. If the food trucks go away I will have to start bringing my own lunch. That doesn't help DC. Please don't let lobbyist from the restaurant association push small food trucks away. Support small business.

Thanks,
Federico Ortiz

April 8, 2013

I have to say I am very concerned about the food truck regulations. Even though my location will still be served by a food truck 'lottery', I do not like the idea of a lottery determining which food trucks my location will be serviced by. This completely circumvents consumer market signals, benefiting neither the food trucks nor the patrons. I have yet to see anything that is outlined in these regulations that has the consumers' interests in mind. Please re-evaluate the pending regulations and ask, "Will the public consumer benefit from this?" Thank you.

Ryan Hoskin

April 8, 2013

I am asking you to reconsider the current food truck regulation you are looking to implement. It is too restrictive, and will be detrimental to all the wonderful new businesses that are opening due to the infusion of Food Trucks into our great city. Mayor Grey is promotion DC as a business friendly city, but how friendly can it be when you are seeking to put these vendors out of business.

Lottery spaces in popular areas will kill the food truck business. Consumers want as many choices as possible, not a few options dictated to us by irrational laws. Instituting a lottery in popular areas such as Farragut Square, and banning food trucks from being within certain distances of those spaces completely negates our choices.

There are certain laws that make things better for the consumer. I am grateful for the health permits required. Ensuring the safety of citizens and visitors to DC is in everyone's best interest, but arbitrary laws about who can do business where do nothing but stifle competition. Competition is in the best interest of the consumer, the business community and the District of Columbia.

Please consider the impact that the proposed regulations will have on the consumer, and their choices.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Brian Calvary

April 8, 2013

I have worked in downtown D.C. for most of the past 16 years.

The proposed regulations on food trucks strike me as a foolish overreaction based on pressure from existing businesses. The variety of food available has me eating out for lunch now more than I ever have in the past.

Trucks should certainly be required to obey all food safety rules. However as proposed many of the new rules--whether the lottery system or the line requirement--seem designed with one primary purpose: to artificially reduce competition.

Embrace this phenomenon and let D.C. continue to become a more vibrant city than it has been in recent memory.

Thank you,
Ray Bert

April 8, 2013

How are you? My name is Sandy Gani. I've been a DC resident since 2004 and working downtown (around Franklin Sq, McPherson Sq and Farragut Sq) since 2006.

I disagree with the proposed regulations that would limit the number of food trucks that come to the parks near where I work. The food trucks have been a great addition to the city, and certainly makes my lunches more interesting. I visit either Franklin Sq or Farragut Sq at least 2 times a week, and think that they make the parks more lively, and encourage folks to sit outside and use these public spaces.

Thank you,
Sandy Gani

April 8, 2013

DC's new food truck regulations must be revised or rejected. Implementing them would be a disaster for food trucks, which have become a thriving aspect of DC's economy and have done much to elevate the available options to DC residents and commuters who work in DC. Many DC food trucks have been featured on Travel channel and Food Network programs, a boon for DC's reputation and showing more and more that DC has much to offer visitors and those who

would wish to live here. These new regulations would cripple the ability for food truck operators to run their businesses and make money. It should also be noticed that the food trucks emerged for a reason, and that is that people were unsatisfied, particularly downtown, with the lunch options that were being offered. At a minimum, the following must be considered:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options
- DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers
- DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety

Jonathan Hamlet

April 8, 2013

Please do not pass this clearly protectionist, anti-competitive food truck regulation. I am a frequent customer of both traditional restaurants and food trucks and see no benefit to the DC resident/consumer from this regulation. This will not provide significantly more parking.

Thank you.

Chris Nierman

April 8, 2013

Food trucks are a recent but important way of life in DC. I urge you to require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety. However, I cannot support the lottery system and restrictions on locations available for food trucks. I encourage you to reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options and to update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers.

From the information presented, there are no good reasons to place these restrictions on food trucks in DC - fair competition for restaurants and food options for residents, employees and visitors in the district.

Thank you,
Kristin Childress

April 8, 2013

I am opposed to ALL the regulations the DC Council is currently proposing.

I believe it's unduly restrictive and will cause many of the current and good food truck vendors to go out of business which will result in the significant loss of choices for those of us who work downtown.

They are popular for a reason, please do not restrict our choices.

Thank you.

Regards,
Bona Park
DC Resident

April 8, 2013

As a DC resident who also works in the city, food trucks have become an important part of my week! I work in an area that has extremely limited food choices, and the Food Trucks have been a great way to improve consumer choice...and get people outside in the sunshine!

I think that having regulations on these trucks is a good thing - health and safety standards are important. But I also think they should have the ability to compete fairly with other food vendors. To that end I want to make sure that the new regulations:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – This means we need to eliminate the lottery system as proposed.
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Have a reduced "obstruction free" sidewalk rule.

- Allow food trucks to stay parked and open even if they don't have a line.
- Require appropriate health permits and allow for inspections to ensure public health and safety

Thank you for listening to my concerns.

Best,

Mary Evans
DC Resident, Ward 7

April 8, 2013

I would like to lend my voice to oppose restrictions and additional regulation on food truck operations in the city. Food trucks meet an obvious need in the market (as demonstrated by their significant popularity and loyal following) and add vibrancy and revenue to the Downtown area. Demand for non-market action is currently focused among existing interest groups who have their own self-interest in mind rather than the interest of the consumer. Please don't allow your office to be captured by political interests that would contribute to further regulation and interference in a market that is currently working well by itself. As a regular lunch-eater, I would like to request the following:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system and let the market decide where the demand for food trucks is. Can the government really do it better than vendors who have all the natural incentive in the world to compete for customers on market factors such as quality and price?
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces. This is a customer unfriendly regulation, especially in dense urban areas. Let the customer choose which trucks get business.
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options. There is room in the city for multiple kinds of businesses, especially in the concentrated food truck operating hours. Measuring sidewalk space is a silly use of limited government resources.

The following proposed changes make sense to me and I would support them:

- Do update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers. This requirement doesn't exist for other vendors. Why would food trucks be different?
- Do require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety. Clearly this makes sense.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sarah Friedfeld

April 8, 2013

I am writing to offer my comments on the new proposed food truck regulations. I am strongly against these. Food trucks provide an incentive to the local economy, because they are locally owned. International conglomerates like 'Pot Belly's' or 'Safeway' do not reinvest locally the funds they raise through lunch sales, yet food trucks do.

The proposed new regulations seem to have been crafted by the Restaurant Association to ensure the demise of food trucks. More importantly, what I oppose in the new regulations are:

1) The lottery system. Part of the appeal of food trucks is the rotations election on a daily basis. The lottery system would eliminate this and restrict the number of food trucks in a specific location.

2) The 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule would by default limit the location where food trucks could be to a handful of spots. For example, Farragut Square would not be usable because it does not meet this requirement, despite having ample park space. All because the space between the sidewalk and the curb is not 10 feet. That is bureaucratic silliness.

3) The 500 feet from lottery assigned spaces is a restriction of free commerce. Does Subway have a rule where if it opens a McDonalds is not allowed to open with 500 feet of it?

The new rules put forth by the Vincent Gray administration are meant to kill, not sustain the nascent food truck industry.

Thank you very much.

Chris Pabon
5315 Connecticut Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20015

April 8, 2013

Below please find my comments on the regulation of food trucks in the District of Columbia:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options
- DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers
- DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety

Sincerely,
Timothy Conrad

April 8, 2013

As a regular customer of several trucks in the DC area and a vegetarian with some challenges in finding a place to eat near my workplace, I am asking that you consider the following in regards to food truck regulation:

Please eliminate the lottery system. It just isn't going to go well. If you must use a lottery system, please don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces.

Please reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are neither street level retail operations nor food options.

Please update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers. This is ridiculous and impractical for everybody, both customers and operators.

Please require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety.

Thank you very much for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Amy Callner

who works on the corner of New Jersey and F NW.

April 8, 2013

I am a DC citizen and frequent food truck patron. I am writing to express my concerns about several of the proposed food truck regulations. First, I am opposed to the lottery system, or any attempt to restrict the number of trucks in popular areas. Second, I am opposed to the 500-foot restriction for serving near lottery-assigned spaces. Third, the 10-foot unobstructed sidewalk rule is far too draconian and should be reduced substantially. Fourth, I am opposed to the customer-line rule, which is unduly burdensome. In general, I think you should be making it easier, not harder, for food a large variety of trucks to accommodate the substantial need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Allon Kedem

April 8, 2013

I am very pleased with the selection of food trucks I can choose from in Farragut Square.

I am in favor of maintaining the status quo policies with degas to their regulation.

Thank you!

Carrie Greene

April 8, 2013

Please do not limit the number of food trucks that can occupy a certain area or hold a lottery for certain locations. I truly enjoy being able to visit a number of food trucks at Farragut Park and do not want to see my options limited. Nor would I like to see a system that punishes the food truck owners who are diligent enough to secure a spot around the park. The current method by which the food trucks operate provides a unique cultural aspect to DC, this would be

threatened by certain of your proposed provisions that would, for example, limit the number of food trucks to 3 per block. I hope you will reconsider the proposed regulations so that you will not prevent a number of options from being located in one central location.

Thank you,
Peter Whitfield

April 8, 2013

I am writing in support of the DC food truck industry and the positive impact they have on our neighborhoods and the employment opportunities they offer.

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options
- DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers
- DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety

Best regards,

Jeff Hart
1755 Upshur Street NW
Washington, DC 20011

April 8, 2013

I have lived on Capitol Hill since 1986, and currently work downtown near Franklin Park. I am a regular customer of food trucks, which I consider to be one of the best developments in the gastronomic life of the city in the nearly 30 years I have lived here. I am very concerned about the restrictive regulations now under consideration. If these regs as proposed are adopted, and food trucks are significantly reduced at the popular downtown gathering spots as most

observers predict, I think the city will face a significant backlash from residents. Please do not do this to us.

In particular:

1) The proposed lottery system is unfair and too unpredictable for food trucks to successfully operate. Three trucks in a place like Farragut Square is an absurd limitation. Long lines will discourage patronage and destroy the industry. And popular trucks that lose out in the lottery won't be able to go to the areas where they have built up loyal followings over the two years.

Expecting them to make up this lost business in tourist areas is unrealistic. Instead, you will drive them out of business, or out of the city.

2) The 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk requirement is too restrictive. Major gathering spots such as Farragut Square, Franklin Park, and Metro Center work just fine. Pedestrians can pass and lines of patrons are careful to line up in an courteous way.

3) Requiring food trucks to move if they don't have a line of customers is unfair and unnecessary, particularly for trucks that only sell desserts such as ice cream or cupcakes.

4) I fully support requiring health permits, charging a reasonable licensing and parking fees, and requiring sales taxes to be collected.

The food trucks and many residents believe that the city government has proposed these regs to protect the bottom line of the restaurant industry. That is an illegitimate reason to do this. If restaurants are losing business because of food trucks they need to step up their game and compete by offering better food. Please prove that you care about the needs and wishes of residents. We love food trucks and want them to continue. Do not impose unnecessary and unfair regulations that will destroy a thriving downtown lunch option for the city's workers.

Thank you for considering my views.

Robert F. Schiff
332 8th Street, NE

April 8, 2013

I am concerned about recent efforts to regulate food truck vendors. I've watched with delight as food trucks in D.C. have gone from five or ten to almost 100 in just a few years. This booming and exciting business brings much needed lunch time options to workers in the District and provides opportunities for work and entrepreneurship. The trucks do an excellent

job of deciding where to go and when, allowing new trucks to try their luck in the market and sell to customers. During lunch hours near Union Station, almost every truck has a line, some very long. Clearly, the business is thriving and loved by locals. The food is often very good, served by workers who seem excited and happy to introduce their product.

Additionally, due to the way D.C. has developed, entire sections of the city are dead zones on the weekend due to lack of residential development downtown. This means that brick and mortar lunchtime restaurants have to close for lack of customers. Food trucks allow an influx of dining options when there are customers - mostly during the week - and allow the owner to be free of building leases that tie them down and add to overhead.

Please do not put more costs and restrictions on our food trucks. These businesses have very small profit margins. Unless they are actually blocking traffic, there is no harm in letting them park and stay in place. Expecting them to always have a line is not realistic and shows a real lack of understanding of how the restaurant business works. It will kill our food truck industry.

I wholly oppose any further restrictions on food trucks. They are a bright shining industry in an otherwise stale lunchtime environment here in D.C. As a resident, I'm proud of these entrepreneurs and eat from them all the time. Don't destroy it by regulating it beyond the bare minimum to ensure public safety.

Thanks for listening,

Christine Fantacone

April 8, 2013

As a consumer and DC taxpayer, I am extremely upset about the proposed Food Truck regulations. Attempting to apply a one-size fits all approach to the trucks in this city is outrageous.

Food trucks are no more obstructive to your citizens than the influx of moronic tourists or the suburbanites who come in for events at Verizon Center. Meanwhile, these food trucks provide your citizens and employees of your tax-paying businesses the opportunity to expand their palate and dining options.

Jack Esteve

April 8, 2013

I am a DC resident from Ward 6 and I am very disappointing with the proposed regulations on where food trucks will be able to locate.

I only occasionally eat at the food trucks but I think they are very beneficial to the city.

They provide residents and tourists unique dining choices. I have often taken visitors to the city to eat at the food trucks and they think it is a cool fun thing to do. They also create low cost start up opportunities for small businesses. This allows for more innovative ideas to be experimented. It also is a way for people to make a living by providing for themselves.

I really hope the city will not follow through with these regulations,

Thank you,

Chris Winnike

April 8, 2013

I have the good fortune of working near Farragut Square in DC. For the past three years, during lunchtime, I have grown to love the food trucks that set up daily and offer amazing goodness at great values: from Egyptian Koshary that takes me back to my childhood in Egypt, to Mojo sandwiches with fried egg. I am vegetarian and had exhausted the offerings at the normal lunch establishments in the area. The Food Trucks have provided a range of veggie options, at not a lot of money, and are convenient. I am very troubled by the new regs being considered by the city. Cutting down the options to just three trucks will mean less veggie choices, I will spend less money on food at lunch in DC if the regs go through. Please don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – and eliminate the lottery system. By banning food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces you are restricting the few veggie options I enjoy now. In terms of congestion on the sidewalk - I am at Farragut almost every day for lunch - sometimes it is crowded, but people cope. The congestion is far less than I experience on Metro twice daily during commuter hours. Please reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options. Please DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers and DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety.

Thank you for your time and please do the right thing here. We in DC are blessed to have the food trucks that have sprouted up since 2009. Other cities are envious. Please don't regulate this innovative tasty phenomenon out of existence.

Thank you,

Erik Peterson

April 8, 2013

As a D.C. resident who works in the city, I'm always delighted to walk to Franklin Square Park and survey the many choices of food trucks. On days like today, where we finally have weather more appropriate to Spring, it's amazing how many like-minded people there seem to be lining up outside each truck. Part of what makes my workday feel less like work is my mid-day break to look at the options, smell delicious treats being cooked on the spot, and select something appetizing.

I worry, though, that a lottery system would be prohibitive to allowing the type, number, and variety of vendors that frequent each location. While I respect the City's need to regulate food trucks in some way, the lottery system proposed would place undue restrictions on popular locations. On any given day, as the current system allows, I can find eight to ten trucks at Franklin, and I like having that variety.

If you do go ahead with the lottery system, however, banning food trucks from serving within 500 feet of assigned spaces would greatly reduce the convenience to consumers of having all of the day's options in one place. The best part about walking over to Franklin is that we, as consumers, have so many options only steps away from each other, and can do side-by-side menu comparisons.

In short, please eliminate the lottery system.

Also, I support health permits for food trucks to ensure public health and safety, as well as the idea of implementing a rule that requires that food trucks must have lines of customers.

Best,

Deane Madsen

April 8, 2013

I would like to voice my displeasure with the latest round of proposed food truck regulations. The latest regulations are extremely stifling to food truck owners, do not have the interest of the consumer at heart and would be extremely detrimental to the vibrant culture created

around food trucks over the past couple years that has improved the quality of life in the downtown area during the work week.

It's so sad to see how the DC government would not plan with its citizens interests at the forefront. Tens of thousands of citizens enjoy food trucks and would be sad to see them go. Rarely to city government issues impact me enough to draw my interest but this is one of them. I firmly intend to withdraw support and votes of Mayor Gray and all council members that sit by idly and watch needless regulation ruin one of the city's cultural gems.

I strongly suggest you all reconsider the regulations so that food trucks are not banned from the most popular places downtown; a first come first serve system would work much better than a lottery. Appropriate health permits are a no brainer-those should still be included but please stop with the other needless regulations that will kill this industry and culture in DC!!!

Dave Baran
DC Resident and Voter

April 8, 2013

As a worker and general foodie in the District of Columbia, I am writing to you today to express my displeasure with the proposed food truck regulations. I do not appreciate local government destroying an innovative, competitive business model that has enriched and expanded the bellies of many a DC worker. I'll be honest, this clear power grab is concerning for someone considering opening her own business in DC - how long before the city government determines that my business is a threat to other businesses with lobbying power and attempts to shut me down? Not really the message you want to send to a city that is finally beginning to turn around and thrive, is it?

I understand the concern of brick and mortar restaurants in the area, but to that I say create food that brings us in your doors - don't just make political grabs to eliminate fair competition.

With specific regard to the rules:

Eliminate this ridiculous lottery system. Food trucks congregate in the most popular locations because the market is there. The culture that has developed around things like Farragut Friday and Truck Thursday has been incredible. Limiting the number of trucks in these locations destroys something that many workers look forward to. Not only that, it's artificially destroying competition. Pathetic.

Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces. Again, what's with the over regulation? You're killing small business and you're annoying people that actually live and work here. You're destroying something that was giving DC a sense of character and community.

Remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers. If you wouldn't kick a restaurant out of its space because it doesn't have a line of customers at any given moment, you shouldn't do it to a truck, either.

The 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule is too much, especially in areas where there is not street level retail no food options. Please eliminate this.

Please DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety.

Food trucks are a legitimate and unique business. They add to the atmosphere of DC and make it a more fun and interesting place for people to work. In a town where food culture has been built from the top down, it's fantastic to see inexpensive, unique options in an accessible area. Let the spirit of competition and good food thrive. Don't kill the food truck business with overbearing regulations. Keep it cheap. Keep it healthy. Keep it fair - keep the trucks on my sidewalks.

Respectfully,
Ashley Stephens

April 8, 2013

Please DO NOT restrict food trucks from operating! They provide plenty of choices for us at L'Enfant Plaza for lunch which we would not have. Also, please:

- Don't restrict food trucks in the most popular locations – eliminate the lottery system
- Don't ban food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces
- Reduce the 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule, especially in areas where there are not street level retail, and not food options
- DO update the rules to remove the requirement that a food truck must have a line of customers

- DO require appropriate health permits and permitting checks to ensure public health and safety

Thanks,

Steven Barbosa

April 8, 2013

I am a Ward 6 resident and I work downtown. I have reviewed the "Corrected Fourth Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Chapter 5 DCMR Title 24, and I respectfully submit my comments.

I find the rule, as proposed, to be unnecessary, unwarranted, non-sensical, anti-consumer, arbitrary, and an unwelcome regulatory interference into market developments that have made the District a more pleasant city and that has allowed consumers a welcome expansion of choice.

The Mobile Roadway Vendor rules relating to the establishment of Mobile Roadway Vending locations and the allocation of license by lottery are egregiously anti-competitive and anti-consumer. The district government should have exactly no oversight of where vendors vend, so long as they are in legal parking spaces. Moreover, the government should in no circumstance be offering sites by lottery, or limiting access by other means. The proposed regulations are, in my view, arbitrary and capricious. The market for mobile vendors will adequately determine where they vend. The "mobile roadway vending locations" and the lottery should be eliminated from the proposal.

Regulations that require the mobile operators to be certified and inspected and that reasonably protect the public health are a completely appropriate function of the district government.

Reasonable, well designed regulations to this effect would be welcome, but not as part of the deplorable proposal described in the "Corrected Fourth Notice."

I would be happy to discuss these ideas further.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comment.

Regards,

Otto Smith
630 L St NE
Washington, DC 20002

April 8, 2013

I am writing to oppose the proposed regulations on DC food trucks. These regulations will seriously damage these small and socially valuable businesses. Of course, it has been clear from the beginning that damaging those businesses is the entire point of this regulatory exercise, and that the only beneficiaries of the regulation would be brick-and-mortar restaurants in the central business district and their landlords.

As a career federal employee as well as a confessed “foodie,” I am hostile neither to the concept of regulation nor to the many fine DC restaurants that I have patronized over the 20 years I have lived here. But the regulations on food trucks appear to serve no broad public purpose. They will restrict consumer choice. They will not improve food safety. They will not measurably improve parking shortages nor reduce traffic congestion. They will, on the other hand, essentially confiscate the equity that hardworking entrepreneurs have created by filling a void in downtown dining options: inexpensive yet distinctive and varied cuisine.

The dynamic market that the food trucks have created demonstrates the very best aspects of free enterprise. The trucks have provided people with limited funds the opportunity to build better lives for themselves and their families while providing an excellent service to the rest of us. They have quickly become an urban treasure, one more thing that makes DC special. They also provide entry-level jobs in a city that desperately needs them.

I urge the District government to rescind the proposed regulations, and instead work cooperatively with the DC Food Truck Association to discuss best practices for addressing concerns about congestion and parking.

Thank you for your attention to these comments.

Paula Van Lare
476 M St SW
Washington, DC 20024

April 8, 2013

I am writing to comment on the proposed food truck regulations. Though I eat at brick and mortar establishments much more frequently than at food trucks, I and every DC resident I've spoken to views food trucks as a positive amenity for city residents. They have also proven to be an incubator for future brick and mortar restaurants. The proposed regulations seem to

needlessly punish food trucks in a way that would make it much more difficult for so many to survive and thrive within city limits. I suspect that many trucks would just decamp to Virginia and the District would be worse off for it, and the political backlash against the responsible public officials would be strong.

I am sympathetic to the brick and mortars with regards to their BIDs cleaning up after food trucks and removing garbage, but think the rest of their argument amounts to little more than anticompetitive lobbying. To address the BIDs' concerns regarding trash, it would be much simpler for the city to levy an additional (reasonable) annual fee on food trucks to be redistributed to the BIDs in which the food trucks most frequently operate.

In short, don't overcomplicate this. Come up with simple rules that allow the food trucks to compete with all other food purveyors.

Thanks,
Dan Novillo

April 8, 2013

I feel that the proposed regulations are too strict and that more space should be available for food trucks than in the proposed regulations. I rely on the food trucks at L'Enfant Plaza for good lunch options are aren't present in the area.

Any new regulations should allow for just as many food trucks to operate in DC as presently do near the locations at which they operate. I oppose the idea of a lottery since it would create an uncertain business environment for a lot of these businesses since they may not be able to operate in the District for a month at a time. One idea is to have the food truck pay a reasonable special surcharge at metered parking spots that they may use.

This is something that works and I urge that any regulations would encourage this type of entrepreneurship rather than forcing the food trucks to Arlington or to other more welcoming business environments. I don't understand why DC justifies subsidizing sports stadiums as providing business opportunities and then limits business opportunities though the proposed regulations for food trucks.

James Fetzner

April 8, 2013

I work in SW DC, and eat at food trucks nearly every day. As you may know, there are few restaurants in the area south of the National Mall, and the food trucks that congregate at 7th and Maryland in SW have brought much needed variety and quality to the food options here, greatly increasing the livability and workability of the area. I am very concerned that the rules for MRVs in the 4th NPRM will effectively destroy the business of the food trucks, and limit me and many other people working in SW DC to a few chain restaurants in L'Enfant Plaza and a few government cafeterias for our meals. In addition, I feel the food truck phenomenon is one of successful entrepreneurship that should be, if anything, rewarded for improving the city, not punished to protect existing businesses that are not serving everyone's needs.

In particular, as I understand it, food trucks will not be allowed to vend in most locations, only in designated MRV zones. My understanding is the 7th & Maryland area is not one. This does not make sense, as the open spaces around the intersection and the light vehicular traffic make it ideal for the congregation of food trucks. I have never seen any problems with lines of people impeding pedestrian traffic, or the trucks blocking vehicular traffic, here in SW.

Furthermore, I understand that even in the designated zones only a few trucks may be allowed to vend. If only two or three trucks came to 7th and Maryland a day, it would not be the success that it is today. The variety on offer, with more than 10 trucks on many days, and room for all of them and their customers, are part of what make the trucks a viable option for customers, and have led to their success. In fact, other areas that are only frequented by one or two trucks have generally not worked out, and the trucks give up after a few weeks.

Finally, I understand that trucks will be assigned zones by lottery, which could be devastating. Many of the food trucks I eat at have worked very hard to build up a loyal clientele in our area, yet they will lose all those customers unless they happen to win the lottery for our area. If you imagine someone running a restaurant or convenience store being told that they have to apply by lottery and then will be assigned a location to work with anywhere in DC, you can see that this does not work. People start businesses because they see a need they can fill, a product that is not available somewhere.

Please do not adopt any of these restrictions, or any other rules that limit the commercial viability or the freedom of movement and vending locations of the DC food trucks. These food trucks have improved the quality of life in the District. In the case of SW DC, they have brought quality food to a portion of the city that traditional fixed restaurants have been unwilling or unable to serve. The whole food truck business model depends on mobility: the trucks compensate for the lack of seating and air conditioning, and the inherent suspicion people have for truck-borne food, through the flexibility to go to their customers, to find their customers by trying different locations, and ultimately find customers who are not well served by the existing restaurant industry. Please preserve this mobility and flexibility in any rules you adopt.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

Best regards,
Chris Helzer

April 8, 2013

It was disappointing to hear that the city is considering enacting further regulations to control the thriving food truck community in the District.

A diverse, flexible, and timely food truck community provides Washingtonian's with access to fresh, quality food that changes daily and allows encourages a higher quality of living. By utilizing the city's downtown parks as staging areas, Food Trucks encourage area employees to walk out into the sunshine to eat something different than the standard salad/sandwich shops and unhealthy buffet's which plague this city. It is unfortunate that area restaurants are not able to adapt their business models to address the diverse culinary needs of working Washingtonians.

Food Trucks should continue to pay taxes, licensing fees, parking permits, etc. for the privilege to operate in the District. However, using a 'lottery' system, limiting choice to consumers, and bending to the will of the restaurant lobby is not a way to encourage innovation, food diversity, nor employment.

Kind regards,
Christopher LaPrade

April 8, 2013

The gentrification and revitalization of DC over the past 7 years has been a remarkable thing. A huge part of that revitalization has been the culinary boom in which food trucks have played a significant role. Many of us young professionals love the diversity and exposure to cultures that the vast varieties of the trucks bring right to our doorsteps downtown. It is a shame to think that the city is trying to capitalize on the talent and profits of small business owners at the expense of all of us new District residents/workers. We love the food trucks!

The city should do better with the revenue they are generating elsewhere and leave one of the BEST new things about DC - The Food Trucks alone! They already pay on the meters! Leave them alone!

April 8, 2013

My name is Huy Nguyen and I am one of the owners of the PhoWheels food truck. I am a resident of Falls Church, Virginia and our kitchen is in Hyattsville, Maryland.

Right now, we have 7 employees. We've been able to grow our business by not only marketing ourselves using all the angles of social media, but most importantly, having the flexibility to park in all the different areas of D.C. to maximize the exposure of our brand. Our business alone supports a wide range of other small and larger businesses such as purchasing our food inventory and restaurant supplies from multiple local vendors, from the maintenance of our truck to taking care of our accounting -- all done by local small businesses. We all stand as a positive contributor to this painful economy and to our surrounding communities. By allowing us to serve these highly dense-congested areas, we're also helping the environment by bringing down District traffic so city commuters wouldn't have to drive anywhere during lunch or even dinner. We're providing a means for social and economic upward mobility for folks like new immigrants and folks who don't have a lot of resources like the people who we employ. It's really important for us to take care of the people whom work for us. In the future, it is our hope to open an establishment in the District -- it's not just food for us, it's our labor of love. I believe food trucks provide increased choice in terms of eating options for folks who live and/or work in D.C. They're quick and convenient and their food tastes good. Instead, these new regulations appear to cater more to the demands of the Restaurant Association.

Our parents came to America in 1977 in pursuit of opportunity for prosperity, success and upward social mobility through hard work. Growing up in this household we were determined to follow in their footsteps in pursuing the same dream of owning our own business. We now rely on our integrity and service to keep our customers coming back. As an entrepreneur, we cannot afford to be dishonest or unethical. We believe that our business, among all the others, is seen as the backbone of a middle class way of life. We create more jobs and generate more economic growth than either big businesses or the government. Our business is what is fueling the hope that our recession will end.

The most current round of regulations that has come out is really concerning for our business. These government agencies have created new hurdles making it more challenging than ever to keep our business running. Restricting food trucks in the most popular locations with the exception of a limited number of lottery-assigned designated spaces (3) has nothing to do with

protecting public health and safety, but everything to do with restricting competition and consumer choice.

Scarcity is an issue here for those trucks who do not win a lottery spot will have little to no place to go. Banning food trucks from serving from within 500 feet of lottery-assigned spaces is restricting us from free enterprise. This will force many food trucks out of business and put many employees out of work.

Much to these recent weeks, our future is constantly on the forefront of our family's thoughts. It's not a place we're comfortable being—the center of attention as we've always put others before us. We depend on high foot-traffic areas to make it feasible for us to sell. We can't count on good weather year-round to survive and with overhead costs being so high, these new regulations can easily put us in the ground. We appreciate your consideration and hard work on making DC a better place.

Sincerely,

Huy T. Nguyen
Co-Owner, PhoWheels

April 8, 2013

I support DC food trucks, not just because their food is delicious and offers many more options for DC workers, but because my dreams of expanding my business and bringing Venezuelan food to the District involves the building of a food truck. For months I have been dreaming (literally) with opening up my own food truck.

In November of last year my business partner and I decided that our Venezuelan food distribution business needed to grow and we finally had a great opportunity to do it by opening up a food truck. In December I received my copy of "How to Run a Food Truck for Dummies" and by January we were very busy drafting our business plan. With all our research we concluded that a food truck would be the most appropriate and effective way to spread our niche food... especially because there is yet to be anywhere where you can find authentic Venezuelan food.

Our business plan is complete, a full 44 pages long, and we have applied for a loan at LEDC. Our food truck builder ready to build our truck as soon as we get green light, except now we can't look forward to opening up a food truck in DC. Instead, we have to worry about what to do with the \$20,000 we already got from one lender, and choose whether or not we can fulfill this dream. Instead we have to consider not doing anything and continuing with our small business

as is instead of growing. Instead we face having to pay off our first loan without even having our food truck yet. Our business has a great potential and the Venezuelan community is in desperate need of representation as well.

The DC government should not be a dream crusher but a dream incubator. Please don't crush my dreams. Please give us and so many more small businesses an opportunity to continue doing what we love.

Sincerely and hoping that you rethink your decision,

Gabriela Febres

Co-Owner, Antojitos de tu Pais (Little Cravings)

April 8, 2013

DCRA should completely scrap the latest proposed regulations. Instead, simpler regulations should bring food trucks into a legal status without giving local officials power to stifle competition. DCRA should issue a mobile vending license for any truck that meets the [already-existing standards](#) for cleanliness and safety.

These licenses should permit trucks to park in any available spot in a commercial zone, allowing them to operate near their customers. The cost of the license, in the range of a few hundred dollars per month, would bring in more revenue than trucks currently pay by feeding parking meters.

By keeping food truck regulations simple and rule-based, we can ensure that restaurants and food trucks compete on an even playing field. By removing discretion from the regulations, we can ensure that consumers, not competitors or officials, are in control.

Katherine Bentley

April 8, 2013

I'm tired of writing letters. I'm tired of organizing and motivating this city to stand behind us. But I will do it every single day I am a resident of this District.

I am one of the first 10 trucks to come out, and I've gained the confidence to leave and start my own business - which involves improving OTHER DC BUSINESSES that just happen to be brick

and mortar. We're tired, but we won't give up. There's over 200k people that support our cause, and they will be visible on and offline if these regs go thru.

Victoria Harris

April 8, 2013

I am writing today in opposition to the proposed vending truck regulations. The Vending Development Zones and 10 foot unobstructed sidewalk rule would adversely affect our ability to serve in areas where we have established a loyal following over the past three years.

Last March I signed a ten year lease on a space at 3301 Georgia Ave. NW which is now Mothership, a neighborhood restaurant with 16 full time employees, 13 of which live within 1/2 mile of the restaurant in The District. Mothership would not have been possible without my food truck El Floridano, which employs 3 DC residents. If the proposed regulations pass it would greatly impact my ability to keep El Floridano in operation.

Please don't pass the regulations with the VDZ or 10' rule in place.

Kindest regards,

Stephan Boillon
Principal-Mothership & El Floridano

April 8, 2013

My Name is Patrick Rathbone and I am the owner operator of The Big Cheese food truck that operates in the city. I am writing to voice my concern for the new regulations the DCRA has published. A couple provisions are improvements but overall but overall the proposed regs are trouble me as a small business owner.

I absolutely understand the need for the District to break up the logjam of food trucks at certain hot spots around the city. When I started my business there were less than 15 trucks on the road and no hot spots. I don't know the exact numbers of mobile food vendors at this point but I'm guessing that it is around 150. Sadly as the number of trucks has increased, the quality of newer trucks has markedly decreased as has their creativity in exploring new areas of the city.

That being said these new regulations are the wrong approach. All they will do is limit competition and confine trucks to the very same hot spots that need to be broken up. The 10

foot unobstructed is the biggest issue. That, on it's face, seems to serve no other purpose that to restrict access of mobile vendors to the CBD. It can't possibly be a public health and safety issue since the majority of proposed MRVs have less than the proposed required 10 feet. This single rule alone creates huge dead zones where mobile vendors would not be allowed.

The next biggest issue is the 500 foot rule regarding minimum distance a mobile vendor be away from a MRV if they are not in that MRV. This is an extreme distance. A more appropriate distance would be one (maybe 2) city block. For example if there were 3 MRV spots at 12th & G other mobile vendors should not only be allowed but encouraged to set up at 13th & G or 11th & G. Fewer vendors in more locations would be a sound policy goal of new regulations.

If the new proposed regulations were to pass as it would be devastating to my business and my employees. If we were not to get a MRV spot in the proposed lottery we would be effectively shut down for a month. I cannot think of any business that could continue to operate under those conditions. I am all for breaking up the logjam but it needs to be done in a thoughtful way that allows mobile vendors the flexibility do what we do best, innovate and create new market opportunities in new areas.

Thank You,

Patrick Rathbone
The Big Cheese

April 8, 2013

I would like to voice my displeasure with the latest round of proposed food truck regulations. The latest regulations are extremely stifling to food truck owners, do not have the interest of the consumer at heart and would be extremely detrimental to the vibrant culture created around food trucks over the past couple years that has improved the quality of life in the downtown area during the work week. By Union Station, there are limited options and the food trucks add a great option that wouldn't otherwise be there.

It's so sad to see how the DC government would not plan with its citizens interests at the forefront. Tens of thousands of citizens enjoy food trucks and would be sad to see them go. Rarely to city government issues impact me enough to draw my interest but this is one of them. I firmly intend to withdraw support and votes of Mayor Gray and all council members that sit by idly and watch needless regulation ruin one of the city's cultural gems.

I strongly suggest you all reconsider the regulations so that food trucks are not banned from the most popular places downtown; a first come first serve system would work much better than a

lottery. Appropriate health permits are a no brainer-those should still be included but please stop with the other needless regulations that will kill this industry and culture in DC!!!

Ted Worm

April 8, 2013

As an owner/operator of a DC food truck I'm very concerned whether I'll still be operating if these new regulations become effective. To handicap me with these unfair and unreliable laws is to basically force me to shut down. Why? I've paid my permit fees to legally operate. I pay my taxes for the product I sell. I feel I bring a positive, fresh and very affordable meal to the DC work force. All of us food trucks bring a character to the city that it sorely lacks. Someone there must be smart enough to realize that what is being proposed won't work. Nobody benefits. Instead, why don't we work together. There are other options that can work...from increasing permit fees or creating new fees, to helping study and develop new areas that can benefit from food trucks. These are symbiotic options because the city generates more revenue, the food trucks have laws that work and most important the consumers have options that they obviously enjoy and support.

Thank you for reading this,

Victor Villarreal
TSR Baked Empanadas

April 8, 2013

I believe the food truck regulations should be scrapped in their entirety.

You can view my thoughts on the matter
here: <http://greatergreaterwashington.org/post/18379/scrap-the-food-truck-regulations/>

Best regards,

Michael Hamilton
Founder, IMBYdc
inmybackyarddc.com

April 8, 2013

I work near Farragut Square and oppose the proposed food truck regulations. It appears to me that they are designed to protect "brick and mortar" restaurants that provide mediocre, overpriced food to customers. The food trucks have been a welcome change and it would be reckless for the Washington, D.C. government to drive them away. At this point, I would bring my lunch from home before going back to eat at downtown D.C. restaurants.

Brandon Friedman
